Dreadful Occurrence!

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Minot fund

MURDER
AND
SUICIDE
AT WIGTON.

A moſt dreadful and diſtreſſing occurrence took place at Wigton, in Cumberland, on Sunday the 20th of April.—Ann Graham, the wife of Wm Graham, blackſmith, murdered two of her children by ſtrangulation, left another for dead, and afterwards cut her own throat!!

On Sunday afternoon (labouring under ſtrong mental derangement) the wretched woman dreſſed herſelf and took her children for a walk, a circumſtance, with her, very unuſual on ſuch a day. She went with them to a ſmall ſtream of water, and looking into it, remarked that 'it was not deep enough, and they would come another time.' On Sunday morning, ſhe ſtrongly perſuaded her huſband to go to church, and when ſhe laid out his Sunday cloathes, ſhe gave him a black ſilk handkerchief, inſtead of a white one. He enquired the reaſon, and aſked for a white one. His wife immediately ſaid to him in a ſingular tone—'What! would you not wear it if we all lay dead?' Mr. Graham took no particular notice of this wildneſs, and went to church. As ſoon as he was gone, ſhe called the children into the houſe and locked the door. After waſhing them, ſhe gave the oldeſt (a boy about nine years of age) an infant to hold, which was ſucking at the breaſt, and then took one of the other children into an adjoining room, put it to death by ſtrangling it with her hands, and then laid it into a bed. She returned for another which ſhe ſtrangled in the ſame manner. When ſhe came for the third, the boy, before-mentioned, enquired what ſhe was doing, and obſerved, he thought ſhe was killing the children. She replied, that ſhe would let him ſoon ſee what ſhe was doing with them, and went into the room with the third, which ſhe alſo ſtrangled. The boy, being alarmed, laid the infant on the floor, and got into the black-ſmith's ſhop by means of a door which communicates with the dwelling-houſe, where he concealed himſelf under the large bellows. His mother followed him into the ſhop, and ſearched but could not find him. After ſhe returned into the dwelling-houſe, the boy eſcaped from the ſhop by drawing the bolts which ſecured the great door. He meet his father as he was returning from church, and told him the dreadful tale; aſſiſtance was immediately procured, and entering the houſe, the unhappy woman was found with her throat dreadfully cut, ithout any ſigns of life—the infant was lying on the floor unhurt—and the other three children were found in bed; two of them quite dead; the other ſhewed ſymptoms of life, and by proper care has been much recovered, but ſtill remains in a very doubtful ſtate. What a ſcene for the unfortunate huſband and father! No cauſe but inſanity can be aſſigned for the commiſſion of ſuch a dreadful and unnatural crime. Mr. Graham has always proved himſelf a kind affectionate huſband. His wife was naturally of a gloomy diſpoſition, and, latterly, ſhe had formed an idea that her children would come to poverty. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of *inſanity.*

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